

# NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program

## Fall Technical Workshop

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### Overview of National Response Issues Related to Training

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# First Responder Perspective

- IAFF represents 274,000 career fire fighters and paramedics serving over 3,400 communities in the U.S. and Canada
- IAFF members are the primary first responders for disaster situations
- Experience and training with Incident Command System



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# IAFF and September 11, 2001

## Fire Department of the City of New York Casualties

- 343 members of Uniformed Firefighters Association, Local 94 and Uniformed Fire Officers Association, Local 854
- 80% of FDNY Special Operations Command
- Worst disaster in the history of the U.S. fire service

## IAFF Response

- Local Assistance: Onsite Incident Command
- Counseling: 17 teams - averaging 65 members a day
- Financial assistance to families
- Training: NIEHS funded initiatives trained 2,604 personnel with a total of 85,192 student contact hours (FRO, Tech, WMD Ops)

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# 2005: Katrina/Rita/Wilma Response

- Incident Command Staff
- Communications
- Evacuation
- Food
- Shelter
- Medical Care
- Medicine/Vaccines
- Fire Fighter Support Teams
- Transportation
- Housing Support
- Financial Assistance
- Building Materials
- Crews for House Repair



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# Training Issues: Incident Command

- Prerequisite training (OSHA Disaster Site Worker)
- Practical training on essential knowledge and skills
  - Structure/communication
  - Adaptability/flexibility (basic needs first)
  - Complete the mission
- Onsite: Pre and post briefings
  - Prebriefing is the most important element in sending in any team





# Training Issues: Planning and Relationships

- Know your community
  - What is in place
  - What/who are the local resources
  - If you travel to assist - these skills/experiences will apply
- Relationships and coordination
  - Maximize resource and information sharing (ex. IAFF Katrina Response: SCEIU, AFL-CIO, Red Cross)
  - Stagger responding teams to allow for information exchange
  - Avoid/eliminate duplication of services



# Training Issues: Culture and Behavior



- Addressing “freelancing” (anything goes) mentality
  - Incident Command (1970 - present)
- Lack of Respiratory Protection at WTC Response
  - Fire fighters: SCBA experience only



# Training Issues: What's Next

9-11-01

- localized metropolitan areas

# 2005 Hurricanes

- Gulf region

## Next: National Disaster (i.e. Avian Flu)

- Planning and relationships
- Basic needs first



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